

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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DEPARTMENT PASS AMREP

FOR THE SECRETARY, ARA - AMBASSADOR TODMAN

FROM USDEL OASGA

USOAS DEL 55

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, OAS, SHUM
SUBJ: OASGA WINDS UP SEVENTH SESSION APPROVING FOUR HUMAN
RIGHTS RESOLUTIONS

REF: GRENADA 0074

1. SUMMARY: PLENARY SESSION OF VII OASGA APPROVED
FOUR HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTIONS AT EVENING SESSION JUNE 22:
MEXICO/VENEZUELA'S RESOLUTION ON ANNUAL REPORT OF THE IAHRA;
VENEZUELA'S RESOLUTION ON CHILE; COLOMBIA'S RESOLUTION ON
PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH ECONOMIC COOPERATION; AND
US/VEN/CR/DR/JAMAICA/BARBADOS/TRINIDAD-TOBAGO RESOLUTION
ON FORTIFYING THE IAHC. FIRST THREE WERE ADOPTED BY
CONSENSUS AT PLENARY SESSION BUT FOURTH BECAME CLIFFHANGER
AGAIN WHEN ECUADOREAN AMBASSADOR LEORO PROPOSED SERIES
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OF NITPICKING AMENDMENTS, MEXICO/VENEZUELA CONVINCED HIM
STYLE COMMITTEE WOULD IRON OUT LATER, AND URUGUAY INSISTED
ON ROLL CALL VOTE. SAME 14 STATES CITED REFTTEL AGAIN
SUPPORTED AND RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED 14-0-8. EVENING
SESSION DELAYED HOURS BECAUSE COMMITTEE I SPENT AFTERNOON
DEBATING NON-AUTONOMOUS STATES REPORT IN ACRIMONIOUS
CONFRONTATION OVER BELIZE BETWEEN CARIBBEAN STATES (PLUS

PANAMA) AND GUATEMALA. END SUMMARY.

2. VOTE ON ALL HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTIONS HELD WITHOUT DEBATE AT MORNING SESSION OF COMMITTEE I. COLOMBIA'S RESOLUTION PASSED BY WIDE MARGIN (18-0-4), LARGELY AS RESULT OF MEXICAN AMBASSADOR DE LA COLINA'S AMENDMENT MAKING IT PALATABLE TO CARIBBEAN AND OTHER PRO-HUMAN RIGHTS DELEGATIONS. CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES WERE ATTRACTED TO RESOLUTION BECAUSE OF ITS PROVISIONS ON ECONOMIC ISSUES, EVEN THOUGH THEY EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN ABOUT WORDING IN OTHER SECTIONS, WHICH MIGHT BE SUBJECT TO MISINTERPRETATION. USDEL EXPLAINED ABSTENTION BY REGRETTING OUR INABILITY TO GO ALONG WITH COLOMBIA, ONE OF THE LEADERS OF HEMISPHERIC PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, BY POINTING OUT OUR CONCERN WITH SOME OF THE ECONOMIC CONCEPTS IN RESOLUTION, AND NOTING THAT DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS NOT GIVEN SAME IMPORTANCE AS NUMBER OF SIDE ISSUES. ABOVE ALL, US COULD NOT ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH ANY CRITICISM, DIRECT OR IMPLIED, OF IAHR, TO WHICH WE WANT TO GIVE FULL AND UNDILUTED SUPPORT. PANAMA, DOM REP, AND VENEZUELA ALSO ABSTAINED. ARGENTINE RESOLUTION WAS VOTED SECOND. IT FAILED TO GAIN 13 VOTES NEEDED FOR PASSAGE DUE TO SIX NEGATIVE VOTES (US, PAN, VEN, JAMAICA, GRENADA, T/T) AND FOUR ABSTENTIONS (MEXICO, DOM REP, ECUADOR, BARBADOS). USDEL EXPLAINED VOTE AGAINST BY NOTING OUR OPPOSITION TO INCLUSION OF TERRORISM, DEALT WITH WELL IN DR'S

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RESOLUTION APPROVED EARLIER, OUR CONCERN THAT SUPPRESSION OF POLITICAL LIBERTIES ABETTED TERRORISM, AND OUR REFUSAL TO INDULGE IN CRITICISM OF IAHR BY JOINING IN CALL FOR PERMANENT COUNCIL TO SET NEW TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR COMMISSION. VENEZUELA (MACHIN) SPOKE IN SAME VEIN.

4. CHILE'S TWO AMENDMENTS TO SEVEN NATION RESOLUTION, ADDING CLAUSES FROM DEFEATED ARGENTINE PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE TERRORISM AND REDEFINE IAHR'S ROLE, WERE DEFEATED BY WIDE MARGIN, WITH EVEN BRAZIL AND PARAGUAY ABSTAINING. URUGUAY ABSTAINED ON SECOND AMENDMENT CONCERNING PROGRAM ON CONSULTATION WITH GOVERNMENTS ON METHODS AND PROCEDURES OF IAHR. VOTE TAKEN NEXT ON RESOLUTION AS A WHOLE. TO GREAT RELIEF OF DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES, RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED 14-0-8. THOSE VOTING FOR WERE PANAMA, JAMAICA, BARBADOS, US, GRENADA, SURINAM, COSTA RICA, T/T, DOM REP, ECUADOR, HAITI, VEN, PERU, MEXICO. ABSTAINING WERE CHILE, PARAGUAY, GUATEMALA, ARG, COL, BRAZIL, URUGUAY, EL SALVADOR. ABSENT WERE HONDURAS, NICARAGUA, AND BOLIVIA.

5. IN EXPLAINING THEIR VOTES ON SEVEN-NATION RESOLUTION, ARGENTINA AND CHILE SAID THEY WOULD HAVE VOTED FOR

RESOLUTION IF CHILEAN AMENDMENTS HAD BEEN ACCEPTED. ARGENTINA SAID THAT RESOLUTION WAS WATERED DOWN BY EXCLUDING ANY REFERENCE TO TERRORISM AND SO HAD BECOME INNOCUOUS. CHILE ALSO DISLIKED REFERENCE IN PARA 3 TO IAHC CONSULTATIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS. GUATEMALA SAID IT ABSTAINED FOR SAME REASON BECAUSE IT COULD LEAD TO POLITICIZATION OF THE COMMISSION. BRAZIL SAID IT COULD NOT ACCEPT ANY REFERENCE TO A PROGRAM OF IAHC CONSULTATIONS WITH EITHER GOVERNMENTAL OR NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS.

6. VENEZUELA (MACHIN) EMPHASIZED THAT THOUGH EVERYONE CONCERNED WITH TERRORISM, IT WAS VERY DANGEROUS TO CONFUSE PROTECTION AGAINST TERRORISM WITH DEFENSE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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HUMAN RIGHTS. HE SAID MANY STATES VIOLATING HUMAN RIGHTS ARE NOT THREATENED BY TERRORISM AND THAT HUMAN RIGHTS HAVE BEEN VIOLATED FOR CENTURIES BY STATES WHO USED TERRORISM AS THEIR JUSTIFICATION.

7. USDEL (WHITE) MADE FOLLOWING POINTS AFTER VOTE ON US-BACKED RESOLUTION:

--HE SAID US CONDEMNS TERRORISM IN ALL ITS FORMS;

-- HOWEVER OAS MUST NOT CONFUSE EXERCISE OF CIVIL RIGHTS, FREE SPEECH, ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION, WITH TERRORISM;

-- HE QUOTED JOHN F. KENNEDY AS SAYING "THOSE WHO MAKE PEACEFUL CHANGE IMPOSSIBLE MAKE VIOLENT CHANGE INEVITABLE".

*

-- WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ANY ONE GOVERNMENT, HE ASSERTED THE PRINCIPLE THAT IF ALL LEGITIMATE AVENUES OF DISSENT CLOSED AND THE LIBERTIES OF THE PEOPLE TAKEN AWAY, THOSE WHO DEFEND THEIR LIBERTIES CANNOT NECESSARILY BE CLASSIFIED AS TERRORISTS.

8. COMMITTEE I SPENT AFTERNOON DEBATING REMAINING NON-HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTIONS, CHIEFLY ONE ON NON-AUTONOMOUS TERRITORIES THAT BECAME FOCUS OF STRUGGLE OVER BELIZE. MCINTYRE (TT) AND PITY (PANAMA) MADE HIGHLY CHARGED ATTACKED ON CASTILLO ARRIOLA (GUATEMALA), WHICH HE REJECTED IN TEMPERATE LANGUAGE, SAYING GOG WORKING TO RESOLVE ISSUE BILATERALLY AND OAS NOT FORUM FOR DEBATE ON ISSUE OF BELIZE, AND OCCUPIED TERRITORY, NOT A COLONY. DE LA COLINA (MEXICO) MADE COCILIATORY REMARKS BUT NOTED GOM'S CLAIMS TO PART OF BELIZE IN EVENT ITS STATUS CHANGED. PITY WENT SO
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FAR AS TO REMIND AUDIENCE GUATEMALA HAD LEASED OUT ITS
TERRITORY TO FOREIGN POWER FOR TRAINING BAY OF PIGS
ATTACKERS (SEPTTEL).

9. PLENARY APPROVED LONG SERIES OF RESOLUTIONS EVENING
OF JUNE 22, INCLUDING FOUR ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND ONE ON
US TRADE ACT, WITH TWO US AMENDMENTS (SEPTTEL. FINAL
VOTE ON US COSPONSORED HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION BECAME
HIGH DRAMA WHEN ECUADOR TRIED TO INTRODUCE LAST-MINUTE
"CLARIFYING" AMENDMENTS AND URUGUAY USED RESULTING
CONFUSION TO DEMAND ROLE CALL VOTE. DESPITE LATE HOUR,
SAME CAST OF SUPPORTERS MATERIALIZED AND RESOLUTION
WAS ADOPTED 14-0-8. GA ENDED AT 8:15 PM JUNE 22.
OVER AND OUT.
MCGEE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED.

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Message Attributes

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